

We were all inspired by the call for freedom and democracy in Egypt this winter, but for some in Egypt, the transition has led to more threats, more fear, and more violence. While Mubarak is gone, extremist groups in Egypt are using the newly opened political space to escalate their war against Christians. Churches are burning and people are being murdered in the streets over their religious beliefs. If these groups get their way, the opportunity for a democratic and free Egypt would be lost.

As the United States partners with Egyptian communities to support democracy in this time of transition, it is imperative that human rights violations are not pushed aside. The United States must demand that any Egyptian Government protect the rights and lives of its citizens before any U.S. dollars are given to that government.

The respect of human rights, including religious freedoms, is imperative for the future and stability of Egypt and the region.

MR. PRESIDENT, DON'T PLAY POLITICS: SUPPORT AMERICAN ENERGY

(Mr. HULTGREN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HULTGREN. The cost of gasoline is devastating American family budgets, destroying jobs, and debilitating our economy. Gas prices in my home State of Illinois are among the highest in the Nation.

It's clear that America needs an energy policy that will take advantage of America's vast supplies of oil, gas, and other resources. But instead of choosing to boost domestic energy production, which would create jobs and help get our economy moving again, the President has chosen the shortsighted, politically expedient, and financially expensive route of tapping our Strategic Petroleum Reserve. I urge him to reconsider his decision and embrace the legislation we have passed to increase domestic energy production.

I have been proud to support the bills we've passed because they will not only reduce our reliance on unstable and unfriendly regions of the world, they will also create good-paying jobs here at home. So instead of tapping the SPR to help his reelection campaign, the President should do what is truly best for America and support our efforts to increase domestic energy production and create the jobs hardworking Americans are looking for.

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SUPPORTING THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

(Ms. TSONGAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Yesterday, I was proud to join 158 of my House colleagues—women and men—in cosponsoring this simple constitutional guarantee that “equality of rights” shall not be denied or abridged on account of one's gender. The ERA was passed by Congress in 1972, and won approval from 35 States before falling just three short of ratification. Since then, women have gained significant protections in society, in the workplace and at home; but it is clear that much more must be done.

Earlier this year, a sitting member of the U.S. Supreme Court stated his view that the Constitution does not prohibit “discrimination on the basis of sex.” While many legal scholars were quick to disagree, his words illustrate clearly the need for explicit constitutional protections. Without them, Congress has—and has already attempted to—roll back these gains.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the ERA and in standing up for the constitutional protection for women and families.

REDUCING THE CORPORATE TAX RATE

(Mr. BARTLETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to rise to support my colleague DONNA EDWARDS and her bill to reduce the corporate tax in order to create more jobs in this country.

The corporate tax is, perhaps, the most regressive tax we have because, in reality, you cannot tax a corporation. It simply becomes a part of the cost of doing business, and they pass it on to the consumer, who pays the tax, which makes everything cost more that the consumer buys, so the consumer will be benefited in several ways when we reduce the corporate tax rate.

Corporations will grow, and there will be more jobs. More corporations will move to this country, creating more jobs. By the way, the revenue stream from this increase in the size of corporations and in the number of corporations may actually increase as a result of reducing the tax rate. There will be more jobs for our consumers, and the things they buy will cost less. This is a win-win-win for everybody.

Thank you, Congresswoman EDWARDS, for your leadership.

WASTEFUL SPENDING WITHIN THE FHA'S INTERNATIONAL SCAN PROGRAM

(Mr. ALTMIRE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, this week, I cosigned a letter to Transportation Secretary LaHood expressing concern about the waste of taxpayer dollars at the Federal Highway Administration's International Scan Program. This program has likely wasted

millions of dollars over the past 10 years, sending government officials abroad most recently to study billboards in five different countries, over 17 days, at a cost of \$300,000 to the taxpayers.

Rightly, Secretary LaHood responded to our letter by immediately suspending the program, but the question remains: Why did it exist in the first place, and how many others like it exist throughout the Federal bureaucracy?

We must continue to scrutinize the budgets at all Federal agencies so we can put an end to this type of wasteful spending once and for all. Hopefully, the suspension of this billboard program is just a sign of things to come.

ENCOURAGING JOB CREATION AND THE AMERICAN ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT

(Mr. STUTZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the proud Representative of Indiana's hardworking Third District and as an original member of the Job Creators Caucus. I have come to the floor today to talk about what makes America great and what we can do to encourage job creation and America's entrepreneurial spirit.

America's curiosity, passion for excellence and drive for efficiency moves every small business owner and entrepreneur in our Nation. Mom-and-pop grocery stores, local mechanics, independent insurance agents, farmers, and countless others make our Nation great. Make no mistake. Our greatness is not attributed to our prosperity. Rather, America is prosperous because she is great, and she is great because she is free.

As a small business owner and a farmer, I have firsthand knowledge of our Nation's unique and wonderful design. Business owners are free to make the countless decisions that they face each and every day. Unfortunately, that entrepreneurial spirit is under attack. Individual Americans are still restless for opportunity, but a threat comes from an excessive government that limits opportunities and stifles job growth.

In 1913, the Ford Motor Company reduced its production time from 14 hours to 1½ hours. Today, a massive bureaucratic machine produces job-killing regulations at a speed that would make Henry Ford shudder. Every year, unelected bureaucrats issue more than 3,000 final rules, close to 10 rules a day.

I have proudly cosponsored the REINS Act, which would reverse the harmful onslaught of regulation that cripples businesses and thwarts job creation. I know that when government gets out of the way it allows Americans to realize their full potential.

The American entrepreneurial spirit is not dead. Men and women across the